(b) if so, the details of items and their value and the stand of the State Government; and

(c) in what manner the issue is proposed to be resolved?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Conservation of heritage

†1473. SHRI RAMA SHANKER KAUSHIK: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the programme for maintaining heritage of art and culture of the country;

(b) whether the existence of cultural and historical heritage of the country is on the extinct, if so, the reasons therefor and the persons who are responsible for this; and

(c) The action proposed to be taken by Government for the conservation of the artistic, cultural and historical heritage of the country and also against the elements which are proving to be obstacles in its development?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) and (b) Under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act of 1958, Archaeological Survey of India (A.S.I.) has declared 3606 monuments in the country as of national importance. Maintenance and conservation of the protected monuments is an ongoing process. Environmental development works, as per archaeological norms, on the monuments are taken up as per their requirements depending upon the availability of resources.

(c) Conservation and development of certain monuments in various States are help up due to encroachments, therein. Apart from taking legal action, active cooperation of the State Governments, at various levels is sought for their removal. The A.S.I. has also stepped up its programme of fencing the protected monuments and sites.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

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